

# THE HISTORIAN



OF HANCOCK COUNTY

[www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com)

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

April 2025

## COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. The guest speaker will be Ron Thorp, and his subject is Patriotism in war and peace in Hancock County and around the world. The most fundamental way a civilian can demonstrate patriotism is to vote. It is not necessary for one to be a hero to be a patriot. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 228-467-4090. **Please call by noon on Wednesday, April 16**, to make your reservation. Seating is limited to forty-eight (48) people, and we need to order the correct number of lunches. **Served at noon, lunch is \$15.00 for members and \$17.00 for nonmembers**, payable at the door. The catering order is submitted on Wednesday at noon prior to the luncheon on Thursday. If you need to cancel your reservation, please call by noon on Wednesday prior to the luncheon if at all possible so that the society does not incur unnecessary expenses. It is catered by Almost Home Catering with Chef Michelle Nichols. The menu for the luncheon this month is chicken in white wine sauce, garlic mashed potatoes, broccoli salad, triple chocolate brownies, and yeast rolls.



Clyde Koerner continued to build things after retirement from the building trade industry. At age one hundred, he is pictured here in his busy workshop constructing scores of scale models of historical landmark buildings such as the Hancock County Courthouse and the Merrill Shell Bank Lighthouse.

## CLYDE KOERNER

By  
James Keating M.D.

One of the most interesting "old-timers" about town was a one-hundred-year-old mechanic/builder of German descent by the name of Clyde Cyrial Koerner Sr. His life story is a compelling testament to the unlimited opportunities in the American economy during the Twentieth Century for an individual with pluck and a vigorous work ethic. Clyde was

born into an old Bay St. Louis family that dates back to a great-grandfather, Henry Koerner (1840-1904), who as a cabin boy jumped ship in the middle of the Nineteenth Century because his Captain struck him in his back with a table fork because Henry brought him cold food. Henry prospered in America and acquired a land grant of eighty acres in Cedar Point in 1862.

Clyde has spawned three generations of descendants who live here in the Bay. In retirement, he built models or replicas of historic lighthouses, schooners, der-

THE  
**HISTORIAN**  
OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor  
Lobrano House Director  
James Keating, Publisher

Published monthly by the  
**HANCOCK COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AND MUSEUM**

**2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chris Roth, President  
Beverly Frater, Treasurer  
Georgie Morton, Secretary  
James Keating, Publicity Chairman  
Jim Codling, Historian and Parliamentarian  
Ron Thorp, Chairman of the House Committee  
Bryan Frater, Membership & Fund Raising  
Bert Young, Audiovisual Tech  
Candee Canady, Archivist

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

P. O. Box 3356  
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39521

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS:**

108 Cue Street  
Telephone [228] 467-4090

**Email address:**

**hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net**

**Website:**

**www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com**  
Marianne Pluim, Webmaster

**LOBRANO HOUSE  
HOURS**

MONDAY — FRIDAY  
10:00AM — 3:00PM  
CLOSED 12—1 (lunch)

**Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

“TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION.”

ricks, rigs, shrimp boats, and dredging ships. His models are on display at the Hancock County Historical Society and Museum.

Clyde's father, Leo Koerner, a machinist, married Marritte Monti. Clyde was born on February 18, 1925. Clyde lived in Bay St. Louis since age two and attended Saint Stanislaus Day School through the seventh grade and then attended Saint Stanislaus College. While at school he had a part-time job in their boatyard maintaining and repairing sailboats, while also learning how to sail. Like any true son of our seaside hamlet, Clyde enlisted in the US Navy in 1943. He fought the Japanese on the *USS San Diego* as a second-class gunner's mate.

This ship was an integral part of the Third Fleet Carrier Task Force. His ship fought in eighteen sea battles, and Clyde and his gunboat were decorated with medals for their service.

The *USS San Diego* was a light cruiser with eight gun turrets on its deck with rotating gun or cannon mounts. Within a turret was a gun house that protected the firing mechanism and the gunnery crew where the cannons were located. The shells and gunpowder were transported to the deck by two separate elevators from magazines far below the deck at the bottom of the hull. Clyde was a gunnery mate in charge of such a magazine. He commanded ten sailors during a typical battle that would load the elevators with shells and

**THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Origin of the Easter Bunny (History.com)

Where did the Easter bunny come from? The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on *Easter Sunday*; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity's most important holiday. The exact origins of this mythical mammal are unclear, but rabbits, known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life.

According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the United States and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests. Additionally, children often left out carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry from all his hopping.

Chris Roth  
President





Clyde Sr. and his wife, Patsy Treadway, were married fifty-five years.

powder. He was promoted during the war and placed in charge of the armory, a small arms and ordinance storeroom.

In recognition of its service, Admiral William "Bull" Halsey designated the *USS San Diego*, with Clyde Koerner aboard her, to have the honor of being the first allied warship to enter Tokyo Bay and take over the naval base there after the surrender of Japan. We are indeed indebted to all of our brave veterans, past and present, like Clyde who served their country in uniform.

After World War II, Clyde continued his seafaring life as a Skipper of a sailing schooner, *The Helen*, which made excursions out of Biloxi, MS, for tourists. In 1947, Clyde graduated to be Captain of a tugboat of a Louisiana Material Co. drudge tender on Lake Pontchartrain that operated out of Bayou Lacombe, LA.

In Lacombe, LA, Clyde met a young lady in 1948 by the

name of Patsy Treadway (1928-2003). They fell in love and were married in November 1948. They lived in her father's camp at the mouth of Bayou Lacombe until he finished his first house. This was one of eleven houses constructed over the years which included primary residences, summer homes, and a fishing camp. All of these structures are still standing except one summer camp destroyed by Hurricane Camille. They reared four children named Patricia Ann, Clyde Jr., Harriet, and Josie Marie. They were happily married for fifty-five years. Patsy died in 2003.

In 1955, Clyde found employment as a tugboat captain for Jahnnke Service in New Orleans. In addition, he was responsible for the general maintenance of boats and buildings including the installation of a new invention which was the rage in the Gulf South at that time called air conditioning. After about five years with

Jahnnke, Clyde transferred to Edwards Transportation Company and was a tugboat captain pushing barges to Texas.

In 1955, the Koerner family moved back to Bay St. Louis and built a house on Blue Meadow Road next to the Jourdan River where the family compound is still present. In this period Clyde found work as a mechanic on the oil rigs of Ocean Drilling and Exploration Co. He would drive to Cameron, La. every week and had a seven-days-on and seven-days-off schedule.

In the 1960s Clyde determined to make a major career change and become a full-time building contractor constructing individual houses in the local region in Bay St. Louis, Kiln, and Picayune. In 1967, he and his family moved to Denham Springs, LA, to do construction, but they returned to Bay St. Louis to commence a long period of successful employment doing construction in Slidell. In Slidell, Interstate 10 was recently completed and families were moving there, and the local economy was booming. Clyde first worked in the development of land for Miramon Construction Co. He was later promoted to Head Supervisor for the construction of multiple buildings on Gause Blvd. which was quickly becoming the epicenter of commerce in one of the fastest-growing cities in the South.

Clyde Jr. was born in 1950 and in 1968 enlisted in the US Marines during the Vietnam War. In 1970, US Marine Corporal Clyde Koerner was inserted in the First Marine Division line in the north-



ern province of South Vietnam, Quang Nam, below the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the mountains west of Danang near Laos. Clyde was in a “free-fire” zone, and he volunteered to be the point man for all his patrols in this “no-man’s” land. His extensive experience as a hunter of deer and other game in Hancock County was instrumental in his ability to function in this Asian jungle. Clyde Jr. was decorated with the usual ribbons for Vietnam War combat service as well as the RNV Cross of Gallantry with palm and frame. Like Father, Like Son.

By 1980, Clyde Sr. had returned to the development of land for the emerging residential developments such as Turtle Creek Landing, Cross Gate, and the Bluff. Land development established the infrastructure of a bedroom community building roads, water drainage systems, sewer, water supply, electricity, and street lights. Clyde Sr. was proud to show Clyde Jr. the ropes of construction after he returned from military service in the Marine Corps fighting in Vietnam. Clyde Jr. quickly advanced under his father’s tutelage to the rank of project supervisor for buildings on Gause such as Ochsner Clinic. After Katrina in 2005, Clyde Sr. was back in the Bay St. Louis community rebuilding the town home after home.

Clyde Sr. was a mariner at heart all of his life. He and his son built a venoit-type Lugger that can hold 2.5 tons of cargo. They constructed the whole boat after hauling the original fiberglass hull from the Rigolets after it was formed. They caught shrimp, oysters, and fish for recreation in their nets. It is named



Four generations of Clyde Koerners at Clyde Sr.’ one hundred birthday party.

the *Patsy K* and contains cabins or living quarters for overnight trips. Clyde and his son installed the engine, fuel tanks, cabin, masts, outriggers, and deck.

It is no surprise that Clyde Sr. has a hobby in retirement of building wooden models of ships and lighthouses. He donated a model of a racing schooner which is on display at the Marine and Seafood Museum in Biloxi. He has recently completed a replica of the lighthouse at the Merrill Shell Bank that was built on Pass Marianne in 1866. Clyde’s grandfather was the lighthouse keeper there for six years in 1875. In that era, lighthouses were essential for navigation of ships in our waters along the coast. The lighthouse was a subject of interest for the Hancock County Historical Society and Museum and was written up in the September 2013 issue of the *Historian*. Clyde donated this model to our society where it is on permanent display.

In conclusion, the Koerners have been busy for

trade and the commerce of our coastal communities and waterfronts. They represent good role models for succeeding generations who wish to achieve continuing prosperity through capitalism in a vibrant maritime and coastal economy. Clyde passed away on March 22, 2025. He is buried next to his beloved wife, Patsy, in the Cedar Rest Cemetery in Bay St. Louis.

#### SOURCES:

- Keating, James W. “World War II: the Pacific Campaign.” *The Historian of Hancock County*, September 2023. Hancock County Historical Society and Museum. Bay St. Louis, MS.
- Keating, James W. “Vietnam War III.” *The Historian of Hancock County*, June 2024. Hancock County Historical Society and Museum. Bay St. Louis, MS.
- Koerner, Clyde Cyrial, Jr. Personal interview, April 11, 2024.
- Koerner, Clyde Cyrial, Sr. Personal interview, June 20, 2019.



### ARBOR DAY IN MISSISSIPPI 2025

Arbor Day means tree day. Arbor is the Latin word for tree. Arbor Day started in 1872, and it was nationally recognized in 1972. Arbor Day is celebrated by planting trees as a way to sustainably protect our planet's natural resources and as a gift for future generations. It is typically observed the last Friday in April, but here in Mississippi, because of our climate, we celebrate on the second Friday in February. This year we celebrated on February 14. The winter is prime time to install new trees and shrubs so that they can become established before the heat and humidity of our summers.

The Bay Waveland Garden club annually installs a tree in a prominent location around



town. This year the Garden Club installed a Little Gem magnolia at St Clare's Church in Waveland.

St. Clare had lost several trees in storms. Little Gem is a dwarf magnolia that only gets about 20 feet tall by 10 feet wide. Anita Warner, chair of the Arbor Day committee, organized the event held on February 14.

The Bay Waveland Garden Club and the Hancock County Historical Society maintain the Live Oak Tree Registry. Their mission is to register live oak trees that are one hundred years' old or older within Hancock County.

In addition it is the intention to protect and conserve these natural resources that promote historical events, aesthetic value, and environmental significance. The project operates in conjunction with the Societe' des Arbres, the state tree registry. The Hancock County Live Oak Registry chair is Anita Warner. In addition to registering trees, the Registry chair attends planning and zoning meetings and city council meetings to speak on behalf of trees and against development that impacts significant trees, or ignores tree ordinances and laws. We have over 800 registered live oaks in Hancock County.





7-15-88

### NEW MEMBERS

Abigail Chatelain  
*Picayune, MS*

George and Robin Riviere, Jr.  
*Bay St. Louis, MS*

Valerie Livengood  
*Carriere, MS*

Nancy Moynan  
*Bay St. Louis, MS*

Frank Strong  
*Waveland, MS*

Thomas and Ann Wilson  
*The Palm House in Bay St, Louis, MS*



## RIEMANN FAMILY Funeral Homes *Est. 1920*

Our Family Faithfully Serving  
Bay Saint Louis, Waveland, and Hancock County  
Now with full Reception Centers  
141 Hwy 90, Waveland, MS 39576  
(228) 242-4500

"There is a Difference, Riemann Services"



## EDMOND-FAHEY

FUNERAL HOMES  
SINCE 1895

Locally Owned. Since 1895

**Swamp Ass Get Down**  
@ 100 MEN HALL  
celebrates 15 years of T-Bois

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025**  
2PM - 9PM

**ANDERS OSBORNE**  
HONEY ISLAND SWAMP BAND  
ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART'S  
MUSCLE THEORY  
DAVE JORDAN & THE NIA  
NONG NU & DA WILD MATOUS

303 UNION ST. BAY ST. LOUIS, MS  
TICKETS : 100MENHALL.COM

SILVER SWAMP GULF COAST

# 100 MEN HALL D.B.A.

MISSISSIPPI - U.S.



## MUSIC / CULTURE / COMMUNITY



**BOOKER FEST**  
every labor day weekend



**Indulge in a luxurious one-night getaway with two buffets Sunday through Thursday.**

To reserve, call 1-866-SLIPPER (754-7737), ext. 0. Exclusions: This offer is not applicable on Friday and Saturday.

**MENTION CODE: DATENITE**



www.silverflipper-mo.com • 1-866-SLIPPER • 1-866-754-7737  
5000 South Beach Blvd. • Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Rooms based on availability. Advanced room reservations and credit card upon booking required to guarantee room.  
24-hour cancellation required. Non-transferrable. Cannot be combined with other offers.

Must be 21 years of age or older. Must present Players Card and valid photo ID at check-in. Tax not included.  
Does not include incidental charges. Management reserves the right to cancel and/or modify this offer.  
Additional restrictions may apply. Offer only valid for new reservations. See Players Services for details.





## GARDENIA TEA ROOM

BY ALMOST HOME

[www.gardeniatearoom.com](http://www.gardeniatearoom.com)  
228-332-2334



**Steve B. Treutel**

**Vice President**

**Senior Financial Advisor**

Mississippi Gulf Coast  
(228) 385-6307

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management makes available products and services offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith incorporated, a registered broker-dealer and member SIPC, and other subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.  
AD-06-12-0048 ARSOT2V1-10-11 Code 453007PM-0612

### THE LITTLE HOUSE OF HEALING



In *The Little House of Healing* by L.L. Lee, nine troubled individuals from a recently divorced woman to a courageous cancer battler, seek solace and a fresh start in the serene haven of Miss Lucy's peaceful Bay St. Louis cottage. This inspirational novel explores redemption and the resilience of the human spirit.

Available at Amazon.com, Historical Society, and some local shops in Bay St. Louis

**PATRICK MARTINEZ**  
Financial Advisor

**RAYMOND JAMES®**

T 228.466.9888 843 Highway 90  
F 228.466.9978 Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520  
patrick.martinez@raymondjames.com  
[www.RaymondJames.com](http://www.RaymondJames.com)

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC.

## FORD REALTY

(601) 798-6202 800-354-FORD(3673)

Residential, Timberland, Ranches, Commercial



**MARTHA FORD, Broker, GRI SFR**

MARTYFORD@BELLSOUTH.NET

CELL 601-590-2988

[www.fordrity.com](http://www.fordrity.com)



1004 Memorial Blvd  
P.O. Box 418  
Picayune, MS 39466  
Fax 601-799-0202

Est. 1949



## Descendants of Juan de Cuevas



24567 Standard Dedeaux Rd  
Kiln, Ms 39556

Phone: (228) 222-0071 Fax: (228) 255-7195

[descendantsofjuandecuevas@outlook.com](mailto:descendantsofjuandecuevas@outlook.com)


Website: [www.cuevasofcatisland.org](http://www.cuevasofcatisland.org)

\*Follow us on Facebook and YouTube\*

## Family Association

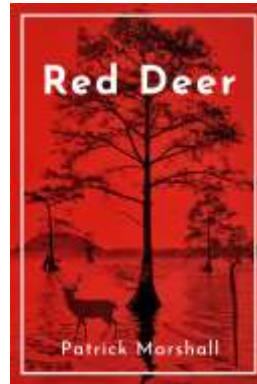


**REAL ESTATE SALES & RENTALS**  
 SINCE 1928 - CELEBRATING 90 YEARS!



**ASHMAN-MOLLERE** REALTY INC.

418 HWY 90 - WAVELAND- 228-467-5454  
 WWW.ASHMAN-MOLLERE.COM



*Red Deer* is fantasy infused historical fiction. Jesse Walker, a 16 year old from present day Gulf Coast Mississippi, is transported back through time to the legendary birthplace of the Choctaw people, NanihWaiya village.

**HUBBARD'S WAVELAND  
 HARDWARE**

" IF YOU DONT THINK WE HAVE IT, ASK US!!"

**DAVID & RICHARD HUBBARD**

615 NICHOLSON AVE  
 WAVELAND, MS 39576

PHONE: (228)467-4494 FAX: (228)467-7632

**Mayley's  
 PestControl, LLC**

your local answer to what's  
 bugging you 



Cell: 228-380-0755

Ofc: 228-380-0295

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

**Knowledgeable • Professional**

**David Mayley**

mayleys.pest.control@gmail.com

603 Esplanade Ave.

Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Bay St Louis:  
 412 Hwy 90  
 228-466-4498

Biloxi:  
 2505 Pass Rd  
 228-385-1177

Diamondhead:  
 5400 Indian Hill  
 228-467-2272



**SOUTH GROUP**  
 INSURANCE SERVICES  
 GULF COAST

- We offer Personal, Business, Life and Health Insurance
- We help our clients save money and get more value.
- We are Trusted Choice and have been awarded the Best Practices Designation.

For more information, please  
 visit our website:

www.southgroupgulfcoast.com

central fax: 888-415-8922



Stephen J. Threlkeld, CFP  
 President  
 South Group Insurance  
 Services - Gulf Coast

**Alice Moseley  
 Folk Art Museum**

honors nationally acclaimed Folk Artist,  
**Alice Latimer Moseley**  
 (1909-2004).



"The House is Blue, But the Old Lady Ain't"

**Monday-Saturday  
 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

**Located in the Historic Train Depot  
 1928 Depot Way, Bay St. Louis, MS  
 228-467-9223**

**www.alicemoseley.com**

**FREE ADMISSION!**



**HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**P. O. BOX 3356**  
**BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39521**

**STREET ADDRESS: 108 CUE ST.**  
**PHONE: 228.467.4090**

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION**

U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 87  
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS

**HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY and MUSEUM**

**P. O. BOX 3356, BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39521**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Online payment may be made at [www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com)

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, AND ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP LEVEL**

**Founder Individual \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Founder Family \$50 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Thomas Shields \$100 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Charles Gray Society \$250 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Life Time \$500 \_\_\_\_\_**

**DUES RENEW IN JANUARY OF EACH YEAR**